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AUTHORITY

6
JAN
01102

ACTS of VENGEANCE!

QUASAR

MAYHEM ON THE MOON!



FEATURING THE WATCHER!™
LIVING LASER!™ THE
RED GHOST!™ AND
OH, YES--VENOM!™

01



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RYAN/BULANADI



QUASAR

FLIES IN A CATHEDRAL

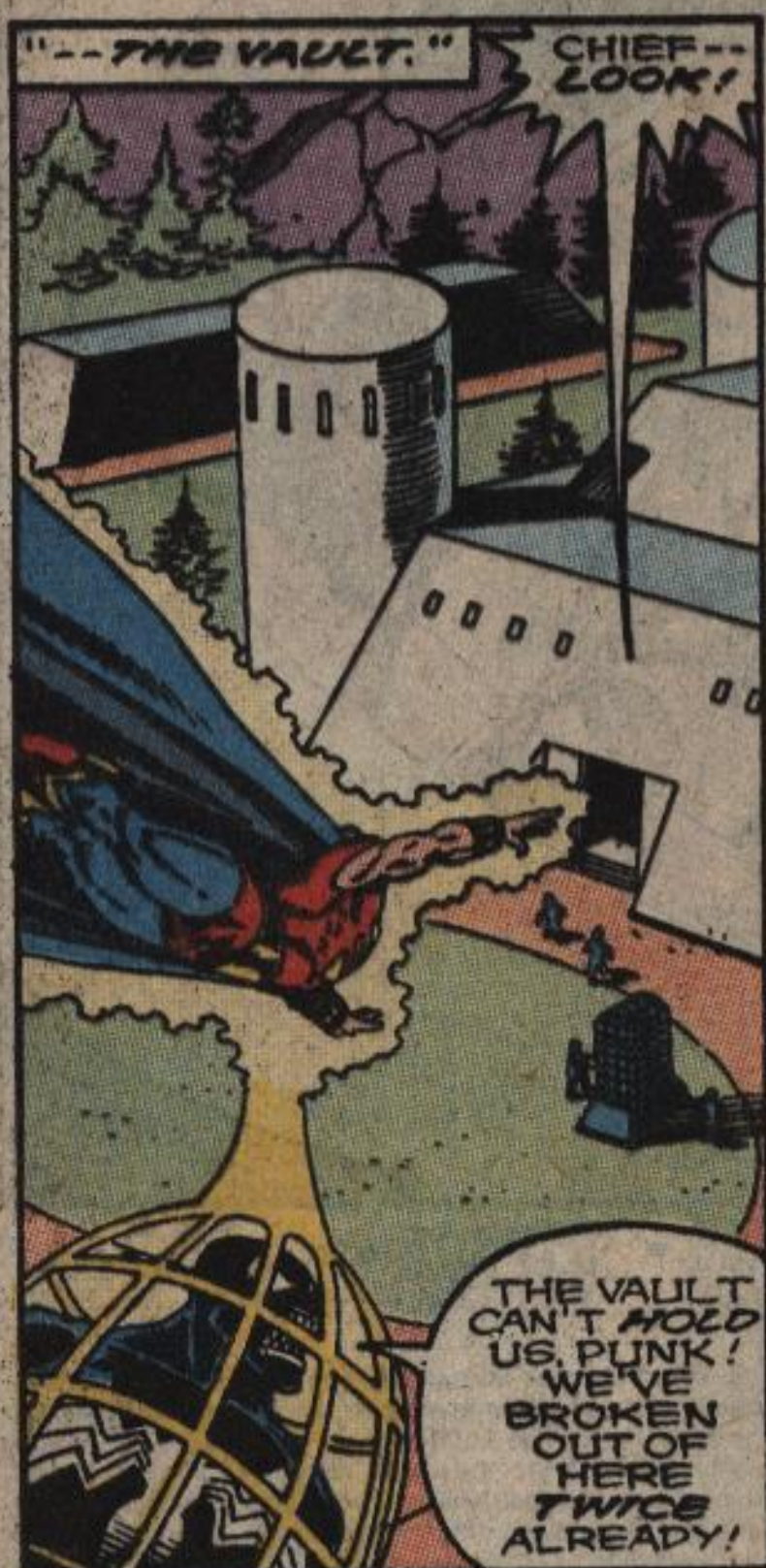
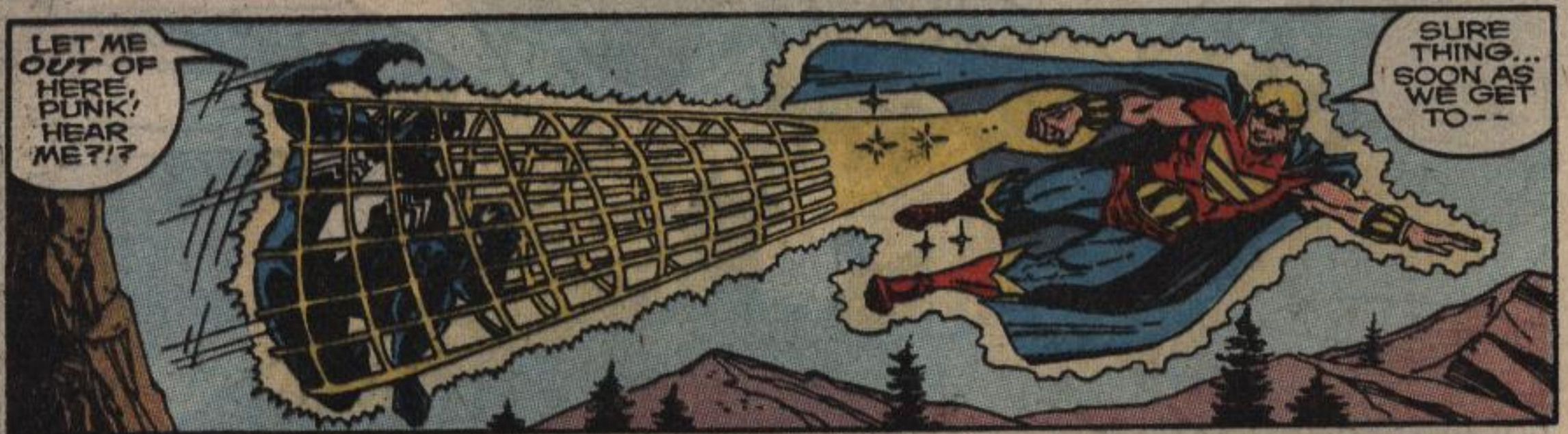
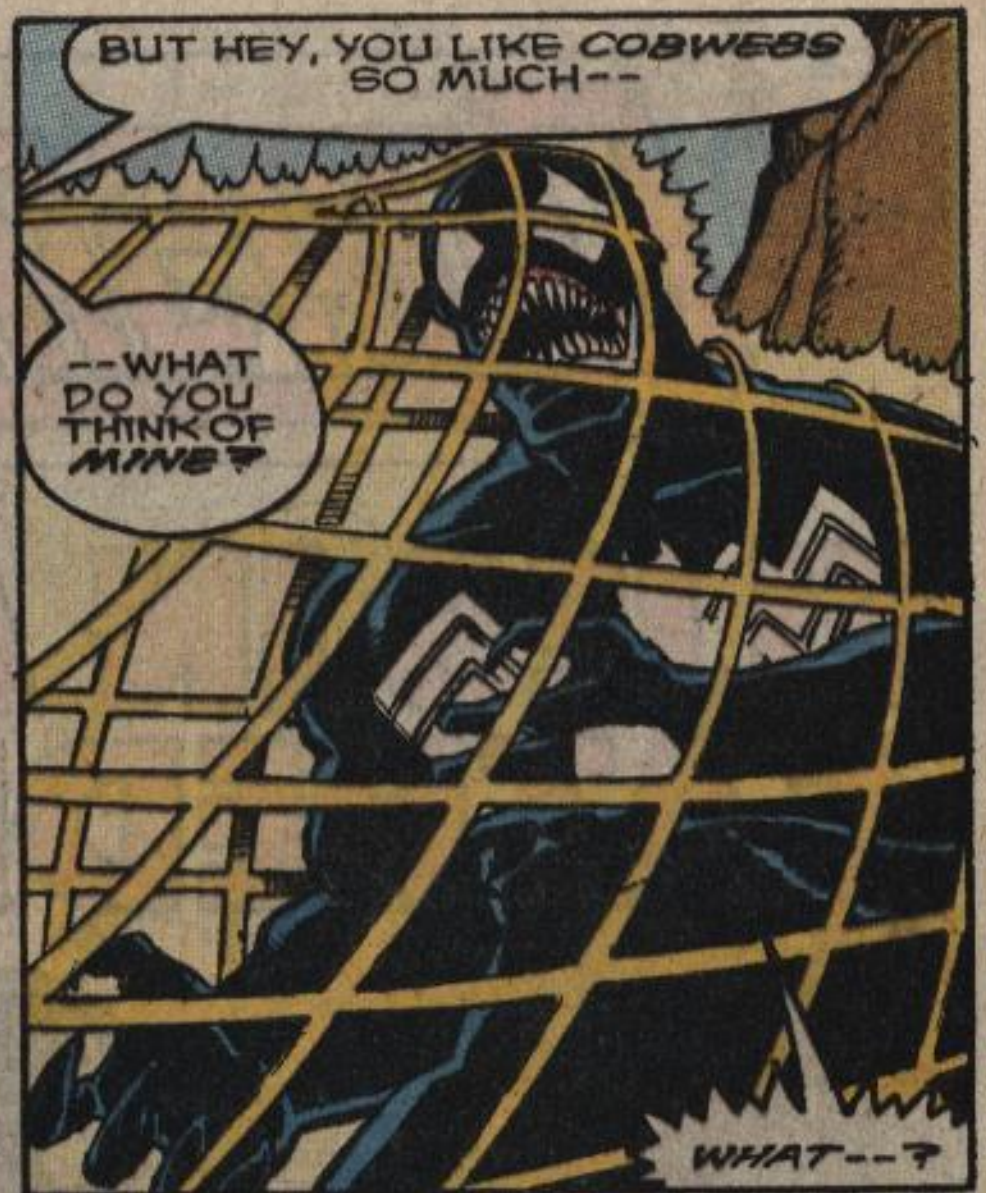
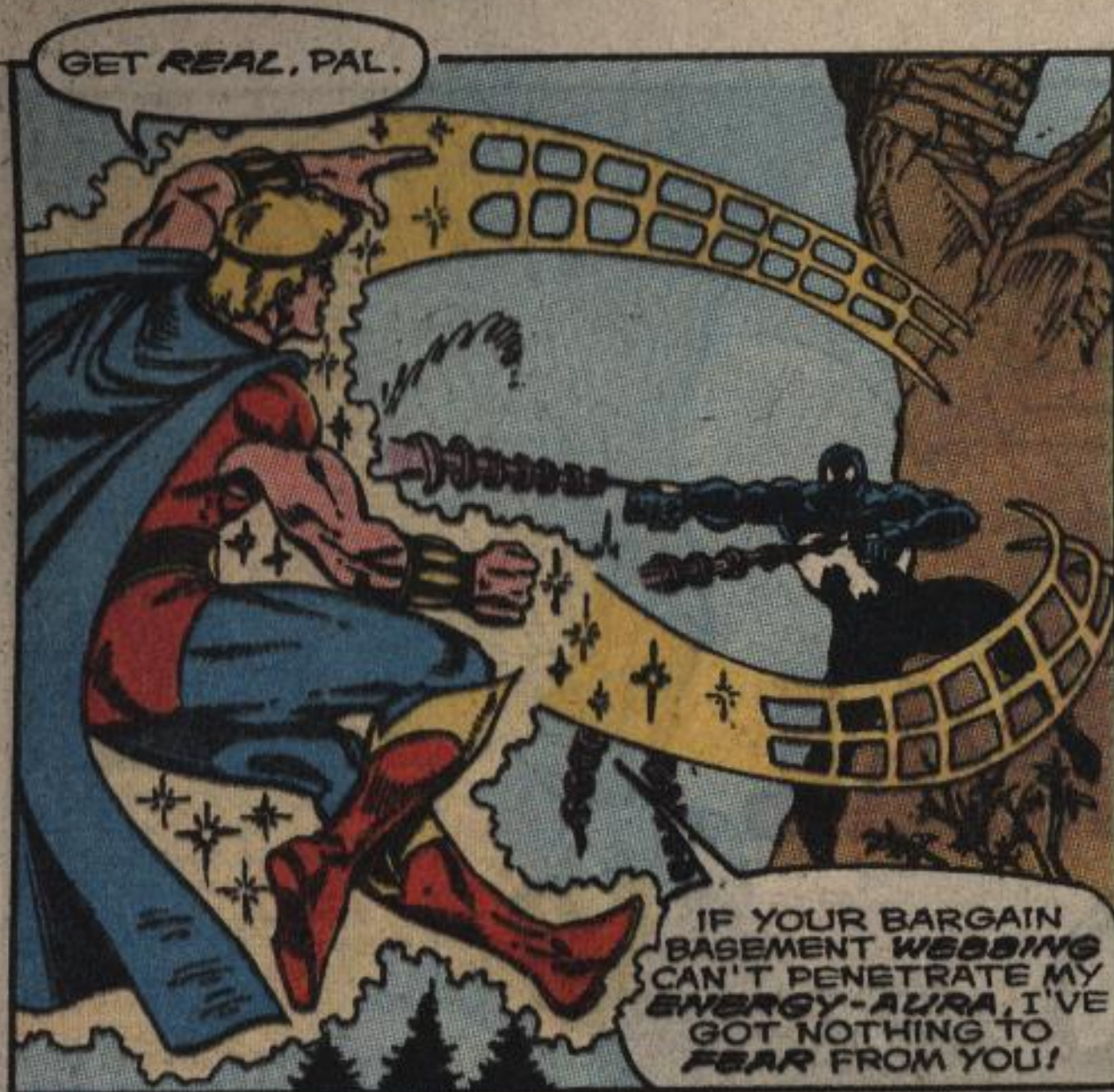
SOMEWHERE IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, FIFTY MILES EAST OF THE FEDERAL PENITENTIARY FOR SUPERHUMAN FELONS KNOWN AS THE VAULT, A CHASE ENDS IN A SHOWDOWN.

LISTEN, RUNT! IF YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO LET SOME PUNK WE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF TAKE US BACK TO PRISON--

-- THEN YOUR HEADBAND'S ON TOO TIGHT!

MARK GRUENWALD • PAUL RYAN • DANNY BULANADI • JANICE CHIANG • PAUL SECTON • HOWARD MACKIE • TOM DE FALCO
STORY PENCILS INKS LETTERS COLORS EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF

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AFTER I MAKE THIS PRESENTATION, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET BACK TO SOME SERIOUS *UNIVERSE-PROTECTING* LIKE YOU *APPOINTED* ME TO DO, OKAY?

I UNDERSTAND, WENDELL VAUGHN.

SAY, IF YOU GET *BORED* IN THERE, I'D GLADLY SHARE SOME OF MY *PAPERWORK* WITH YOU.

MENTALLY EXPLORING THE *UNIVERSE* GIVES ME *PLENTY* TO DO, MY PROTECTOR IT IS AMAZING HOW SWIFTLY ONE'S *COSMIC AWARENESS* CAN DIMINISH IF ONE DOES NOT KEEP UP WITH ONE'S *STUDIES*.

I DON'T MEAN TO BE *RUDE*, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO *EXCUSE* ME. I'VE GOT A *TON OF WORK* TO GET DONE, AND UNLIKE YOURS, MY MIND CAN ONLY CONCENTRATE ON *ONE THING* AT A TIME.

AGAIN, I UNDERSTAND. GOOD DAY.

NOW WHERE WAS I? OH, YEAH...

OH, NOW WHAT? MY WRISTBAND TINGLING--
AVENGERS FREQUENCY.

QUASAR HERE.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU AGAIN, BUT WE'VE JUST GOTTEN A REPORT ON ANOTHER VAULT ESCAPEE--
KLAW, THE SOUND MASTER.

I KNOW YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN ONE CALL TODAY, BUT CAP'S IN WASHINGTON, I WASN'T ABLE TO REACH THOR, SHE-HULK'S--

SORRY, PEGGY. ONE'S MY *LIMIT* FOR TODAY. I'VE GOT A WHOLE LOT OF *PERSONAL STUFF* TO TAKE CARE OF.

I READ YOU, CARTER OUT.

I HATED DOING THAT, BUT HEY, I'VE GOT OTHER COMMITMENTS, TOO. NOW LET'S SEE, WHERE WAS I?

THE FLOOR PLANS... RIGHT. HMMM.

SAY, KAYLA -- CANCEL MY DELI ORDER. I JUST REMEMBERED AN EXTREMELY URGENT LUNCH DATE I FORGOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT.

PEGGY, THIS IS QUASAR. I'VE DECIDED I WILL TAKE THAT EMERGENCY CALL, AFTER ALL.

SO WHERE'S KLAU BEEN SIGHTED? NEARBY, I HOPE.

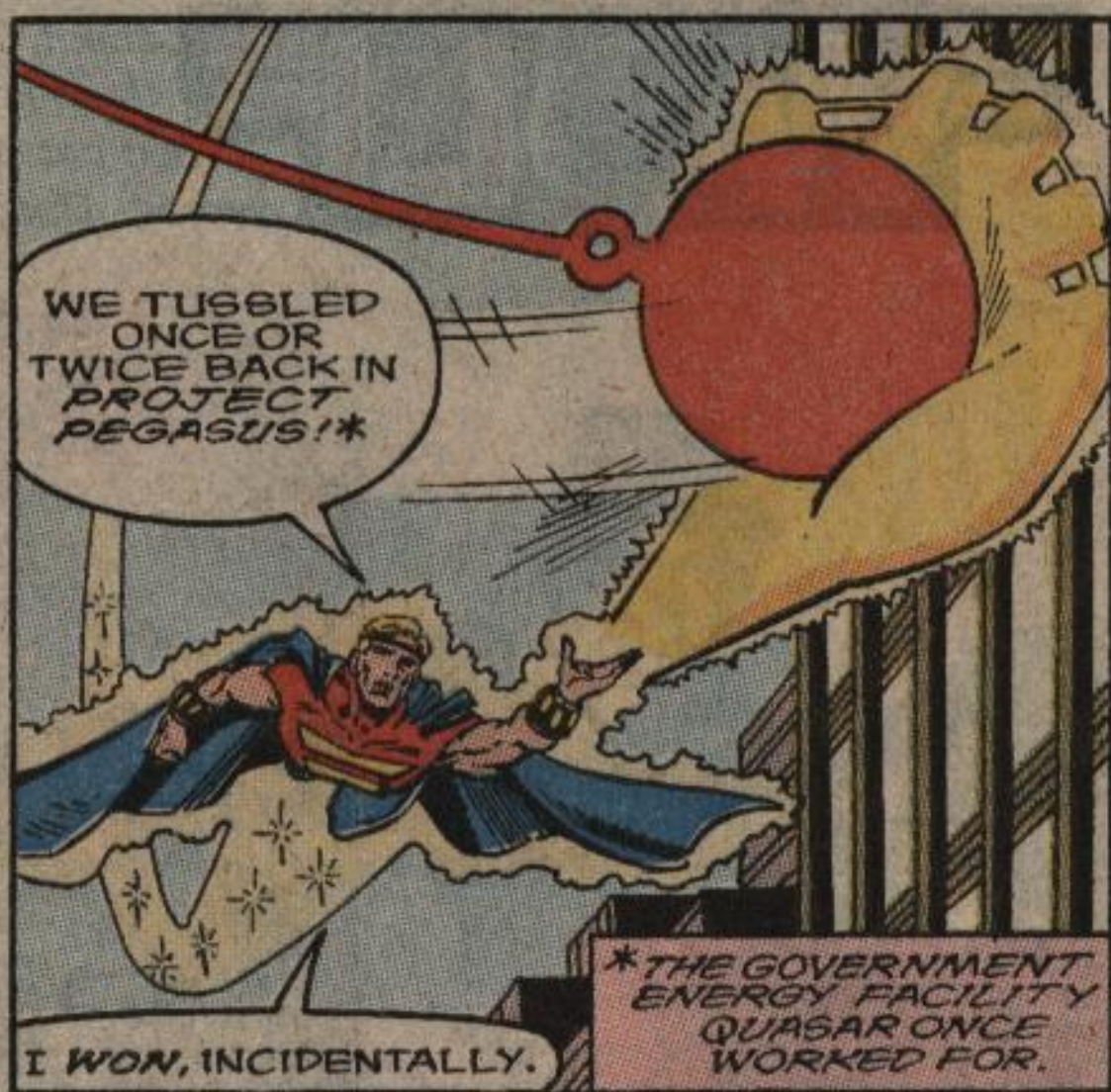
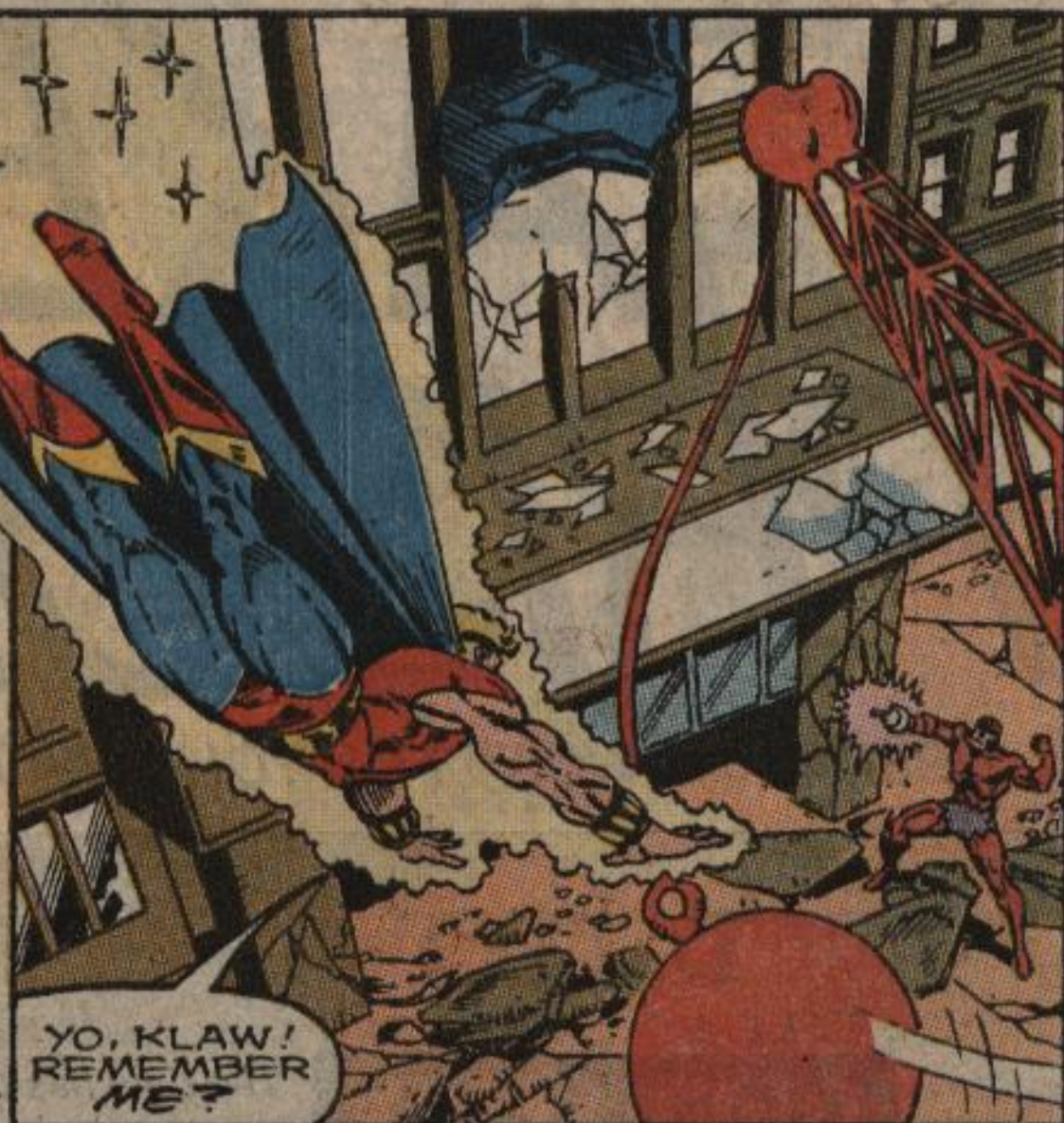
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI...

OR NOT SO NEARBY.

KLAU, YOU BIG BAG OF NOISE--

--YOU'D BETTER NOT GIVE ME ANY MORE PROBLEM THAN VENOM DID. I'M IN NO MOOD FOR A TOUGH FIGHT.

OKAY, ATTUNE MY QUANTUM-BANDS TO HIS PARTICULAR ENERGY-SIGNATURE AND --



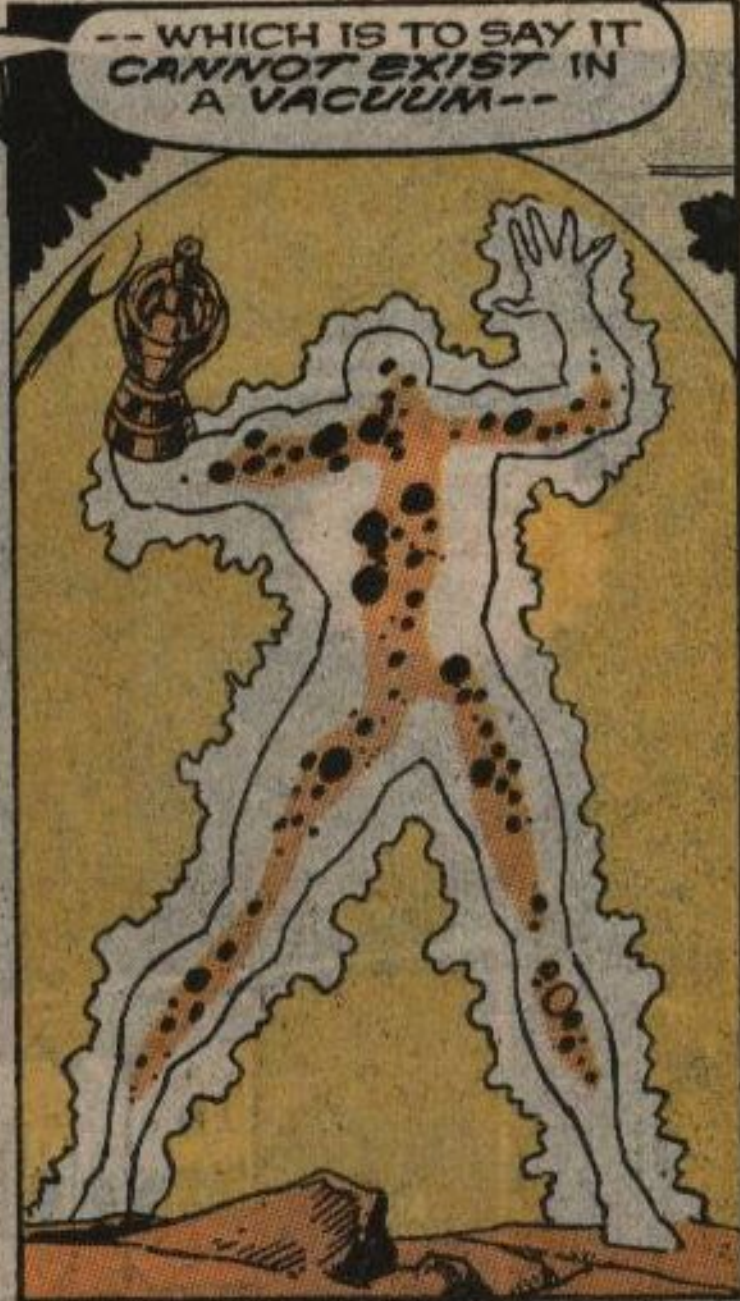
PAY ATTENTION NOW!



MY POWER--
LIGHT--IS AN
ELECTROMAGNETIC
ENERGY PHENOMENON
THAT CAN TRAVEL
THROUGH A
VACUUM.



SOUND, HOWEVER, IS A
MECHANICAL RADIANT
ENERGY TRANSMITTED
THROUGH A MEDIUM
LIKE AIR--



-- WHICH IS TO SAY IT
CANNOT EXIST IN
A VACUUM--

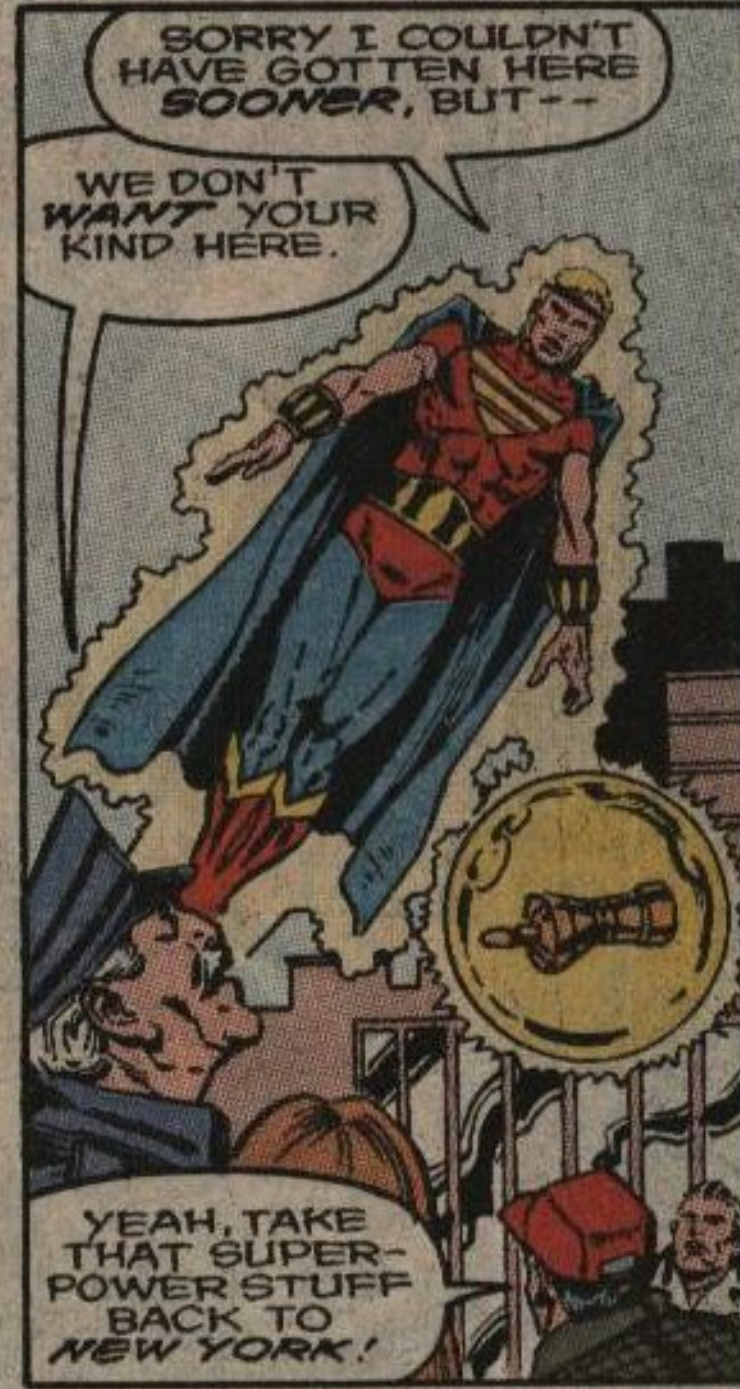


... MUCH LIKE
THE ONE I
CREATED
HERE.



RELAX, FOLKS. I DIDN'T
KILL HIM. I JUST MADE HIS
SOUND-GENERATED BODY
COLLAPSE INTO HIS
PROSTHETIC DEVICE.

THE MOMENT
HE ABSORBS THE
SLIGHTEST BIT OF
SOUND, HE'LL
REGENERATE.
I PROMISE!



SORRY I COULDN'T
HAVE GOTTEN HERE
SOONER, BUT--

WE DON'T
WANT YOUR
KIND HERE.

YEAH, TAKE
THAT SUPER-
POWER STUFF
BACK TO
NEW YORK!

BOY, TALK ABOUT
UNGRATEFUL--! THE
EPIDEMIC OF SUPER-
VILLAINY THAT'S
FOLLOWED THE BIG
VAULT BREAKOUT
CERTAINLY HASN'T DONE
MUCH FOR PUBLIC
RELATIONS.*



WONDER IF CONGRESS
WILL ACTUALLY BE
PRESSURED TO PASS
THAT SUPER POWERS
REGISTRATION ACT.

HOPE NOT. IT'LL
BE THE GOOD GUYS
MORE PUT OUT BY IT
THAN THE BAD.

*AS DEPICTED
IN NUMEROUS
OTHER TITLES
WHERE "ACTS OF
VENGEANCE" ARE
GOING ON.



ANYWAY, THIS WAS AS EASY AS I COULD HAVE HOPED. I'LL PROBABLY BE BACK AT MY DESK BY--

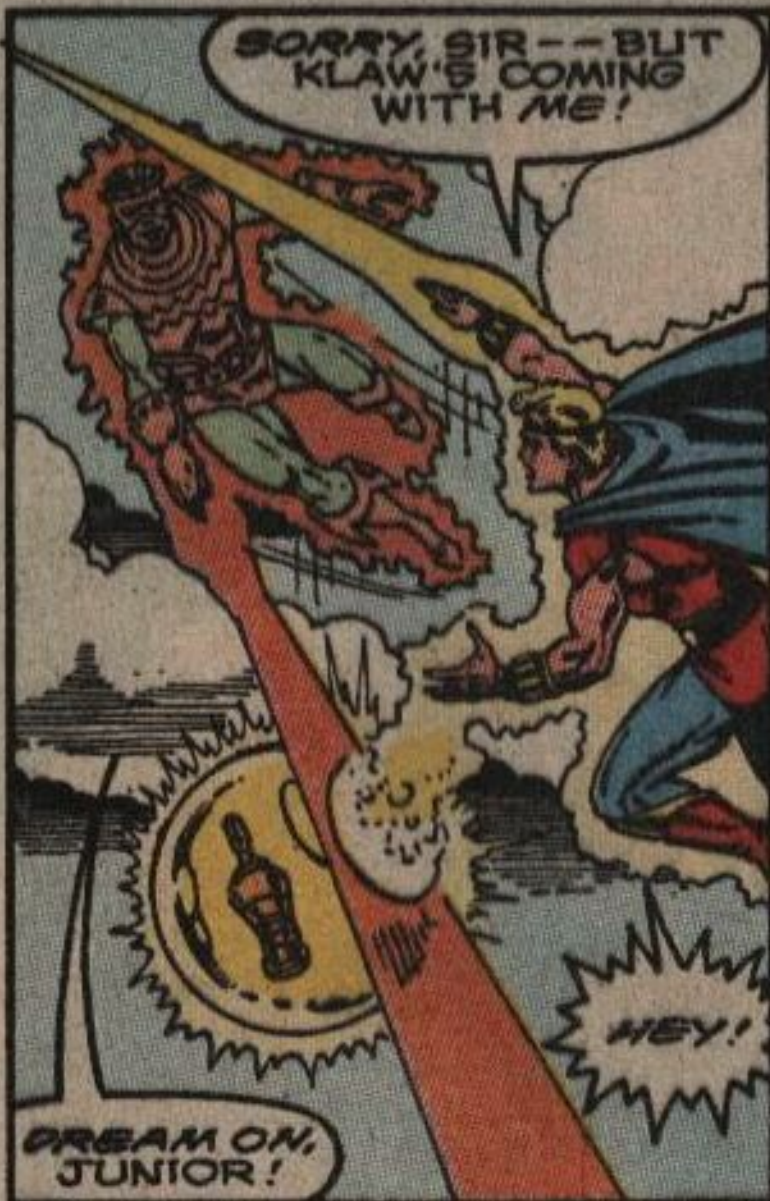
--WHAT THE--?



HOW'S IT GOING, SPARKLES? THE NAME'S **LIVING LASER** AND I'VE COME TO RELIEVE YOU OF MY BUDDY'S **BLASTER** THERE.

LIVING LASER? HE'S AN OLD-TIME AVENGERS FOE! *

LAST SEEN IN IRON MAN #211.



SORRY, SIR-- BUT KLAU'S COMING WITH ME!

HEY!

DREAM ON, JUNIOR!



HE LABED OPEN MY--

AAAAHHH!

TAKE A POWDER, KLAU-- I CAN HANDLE MR. GLITTER HERE!



KLAU'S DROPPING FAST. THE FALL WILL MEAN NOTHING TO HIS SIMULATED BODY.



I CAN ALWAYS RECAPTURE HIM. THE LASER HERE IS MY MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM.

HE'S INCREDIBLY FAST. HE SOMEHOW MANAGES TO DODGE MY FORCE-BEAMS-- NVVNGH!



OKAY THEN, HOW 'BOUT IF I LET OFF WITH AN OMNIDIRECTIONAL CASCADE OF THEM?

DODGE THIS, WISE GUY!

AGGH! YOU GOT ME--



- FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DID!

YOU SEE, KID, I'M JUST WHAT MY NAME SAYS-- A LIVING LASER!



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE ABLE TO HURT ENERGY?!?

CAN I GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT?

BLAST! HE'S TOO QUICK FOR ME TO EVEN ENCAPSULATE!



BUT THERE'S STILL ONE TRICK I CAN ALWAYS TRY ON ENERGY-BASED OPPONENTS!

LET ME KEEP HIM BUSY SO HE DOESN'T TUMBLE ON TO WHAT I'M UP TO!

YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BIND PHOTONS TO AIR MOLECULES TO CREATE DOO-DADS, KID!



I WAS A SCIENTIST BEFORE I GOT TRANSFORMED.

I KNOW THINGS ABOUT ENERGY THAT AMATEURS LIKE YOU COULDN'T BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND!



I CAN-- I-- WHA--?



WHA--S HAP-NING T'MEEE--?

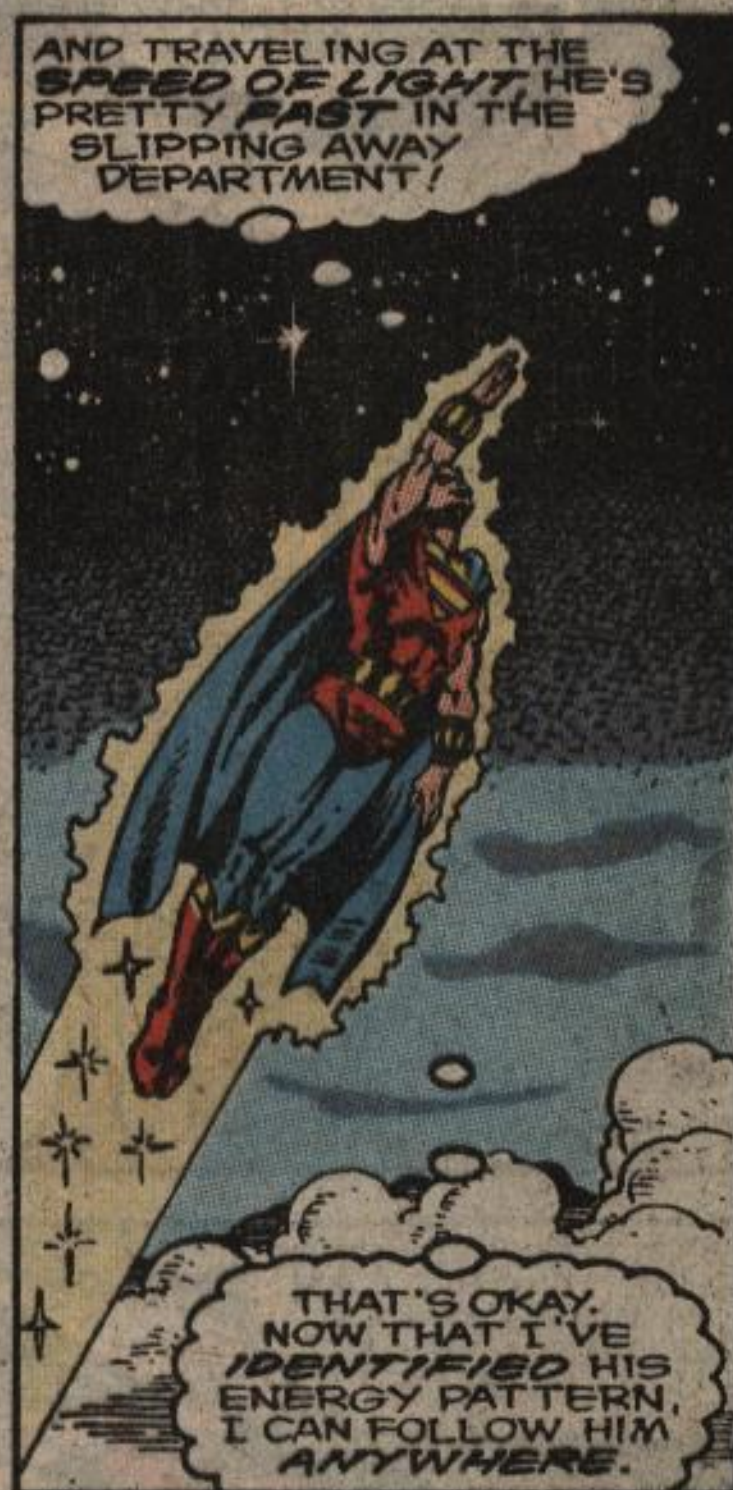


WELL, MR. SCIENTIST, I'VE JUST LOCATED YOUR SPECIFIC ENERGY SIGNATURE ON MY QUANTUM-BANDS, AND I'M TAPPING INTO YOU!

ANOTHER FEW SECONDS AND YOU'LL BE--



WHOOOPS, HE SLIPPED AWAY BEFORE I COULD FULLY VACUUM HIM IN.



AND TRAVELING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, HE'S PRETTY FAST IN THE SLIPPING AWAY DEPARTMENT!

THAT'S OKAY. NOW THAT I'VE IDENTIFIED HIS ENERGY PATTERN, I CAN FOLLOW HIM ANYWHERE.



I'M NOWHERE NEAR AS FAST AS HIM IN EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS...

...BUT OUT HERE IN SPACE I CAN REALLY OPEN UP WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS.

WONDER HOW FAR THE LIVING LASER WILL FLY TRYING TO DITCH ME? AT LIGHT SPEED IT WOULD TAKE HIM A LITTLE OVER AN HOUR TO BE WAY OUT PAST SATURN!



THAT'S ASSUMING HE STAYS IN THE PLANE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM. IF HE WERE TO HEAD STRAIGHT "UP" HE COULD--

NAH, HE CAN'T BE THAT FRIGHTENED OF ME.



UNLESS HE'S GOT ~~MOVING~~ DEVICES LIKE I HAVE, IT WOULD BE PRETTY RISKY TO FIND YOUR WAY BACK ONCE YOU'RE WAY OUT IN THE INTERSTELLAR VOID.

NO, I'LL BET HE'S HIDING OUT SOMEWHERE RELATIVELY CLOSE BY... LIKE THE MOON!

HAVEN'T DONE A QUANTUM LEAP IN A WHILE--!



AH! NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE SPACE WARP TO TAKE A FEW HOURS OFF ONE'S TRAVEL TIME!

QUANTUM-BANDS, YOU'RE THE GREATEST!



YEP! THE LASER'S ENERGY SIGNATURE IS A LOT STRONGER HERE THAN ON EARTH!

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SNEAK UP ON HIM BEFORE--HEY, WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?



I REMEMBER THE THING TELLING ME ABOUT THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON--RUINS OF AN ANCIENT CITY BUILT BY SOME ALIENS--BUT THIS CITY LOOKS BRAND-SPARKING NEW!

URBAN RENEWAL...?



NO TIME TO INVESTIGATE. I'VE GOT A RUNAWAY ENERGY-MAN OR TWO TO APPREHEND!

HEY, NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE IT. THAT INVERTED CHANDELIER CITY WAS JUST A SMALL PART OF THE BLUE AREA.

MOST OF IT IS RUINS!

HMMM. THE LASER'S ENERGY FEELS REALLY CLOSE!

OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

HE FOLLOWED ME HERE!!!

THE KID MUST'VE
LOCKED ONTO
ME WITH THOSE
BRACELETS
OF HIS!

HOW AM I SUPPOSED
TO CAMOUFLAGE
MYSELF? IT'S NOT LIKE
I CAN CHANGE BACK
INTO MY HUMAN FORM
ANYMORE

I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S
MY BEST BET... TO TRY
TO OUTRUN HIM IN
OPEN SPACE--

--OR TRY TO HIDE FROM HIM
SOMEWHERE ON THE MOON. MAYBE IF
I WERE TO BURROW STRAIGHT INTO--

HEY,
WHAT'S
THIS?

SOME SORT OF
STRUCTURE UNLIKE ANY
OF THE OTHERS I SAW.

FEELS WARM... LIKE THE PLACE
CONTAINS A POWERFUL ENERGY
SOURCE, MAYBE THIS IS THE
POWER PLANT FOR THAT
CRYSTALLINE CITY ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE RUINS!

MAYBE INSIDE I CAN
FIND A WAY TO
DISGUISE MY ENERGY
TRAIL, GET THE KID
OFF MY BACK!

AND DEEP WITHIN
THE MYSTERIOUS
EDIFICE, AN
ANCIENT BEING
LOOKS UP FROM
HIS VIGIL...

... HIS REVERIES DISTURBED
BY THE SUDDEN KNOWLEDGE OF THE
INTRUDER'S BRASH ENTRANCE...!



ALTHOUGH EVERY WATCHER HAS AN OATH OF NON-INTERFERENCE, THEY DO NOT WELCOME DIRECT ENCOUNTERS WITH THE SUBJECTS OF THEIR OBSERVATIONS.

I SEE. WELL, I JUST CHASED A LIVING LASER-MAN INSIDE HIS FORTRESS. WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO?

LET HIM GO. THE WATCHER CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.

GOTCHA.

I DON'T KNOW... SEEMS A WASTE TO COME ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING.

CALL ME A GUY WHO HATES UNFINISHED BUSINESS, BUT I JUST WOULDN'T FEEL RIGHT IF I LEFT WITHOUT WARNING THIS WATCHER ABOUT HIS UNINVITED HOUSE-GUEST.

I FEEL THE LASER'S ENERGY REAL -- THERE HE IS!

WITH ANY LUCK I CAN VACUUM HIM UP AND GET OUT OF HERE WITHOUT HONKING OFF THE WATCHER.

HEY, THE PORTAL OPENED WHEN I TAPPED IT. IF THAT ISN'T AN INVITATION, THEN WHAT IS?

WOWEE. THIS PLACE LOOKS A LOT BIGGER ON THE INSIDE THAN IT DID ON THE OUTSIDE. MUST BE A TESSERECT* OR SOMETHING.

HELLO? ANYBODY HOME? THE NAME'S QUASAR. I COME IN PEACE!

OKAY, SIR -- THAT'S FAR ENOUGH!

YOU!

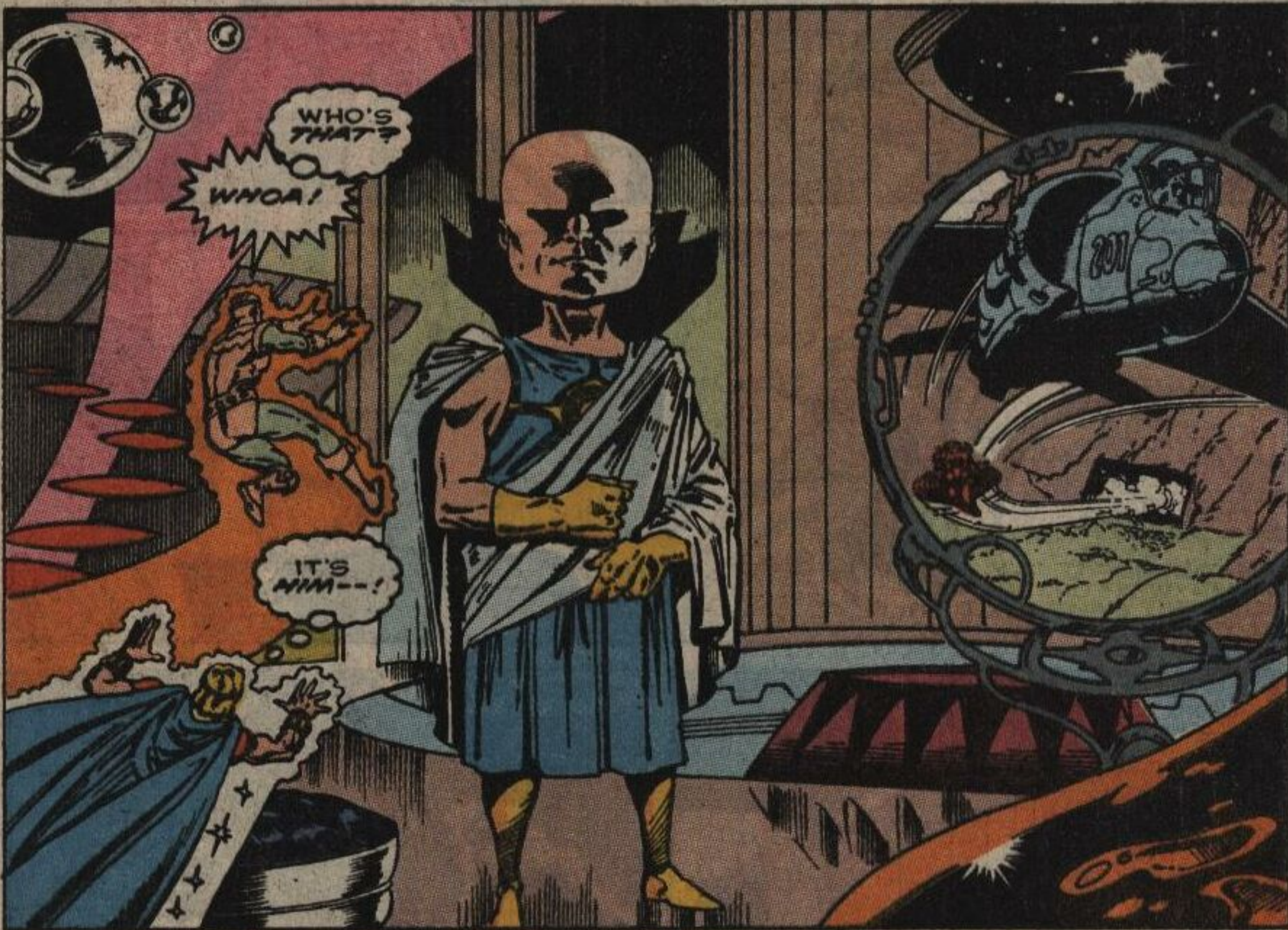
I BECAME SO DISORIENTED BY THIS BIZARRE ARCHITECTURE I FAILED TO SEE HIM! BLAST HIM ANYWAY!

* A HYPOTHETICAL FOURTH DIMENSIONAL OBJECT.



BACK OFF, KID! I'VE GOT NO QUARREL WITH YOU!

GOT TO ESCAPE-- HOW? NOW?



WHO'S THAT?

WHOA!

IT'S HIM--!

THAT CIRCLE-- IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S A WINDOW INTO ANOTHER WORLD!



WHAT IF--?



THE GRIM-VISAGED ALIEN DOES NOT BETRAY IF HE KNOWS WHAT THOUGHT RACES THROUGH THE ELECTRICAL FIELD THAT CONSTITUTES THE LIVING LASER'S MIND...



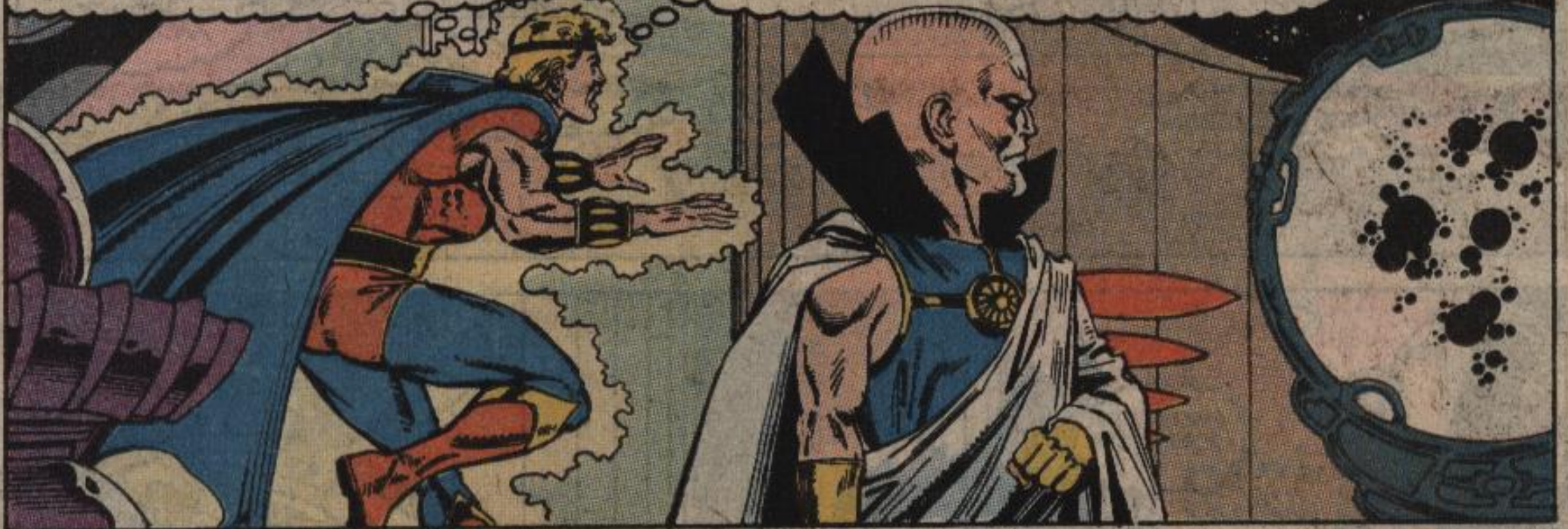
...AND IN THAT NEXT INSTANT, WHEN THAT THOUGHT BECOMES DEED, IT IS TOO LATE FOR ALL ACTION--



--WERE ACTION AN OPTION THE WATCHER WOULD DECIDE TO TAKE.

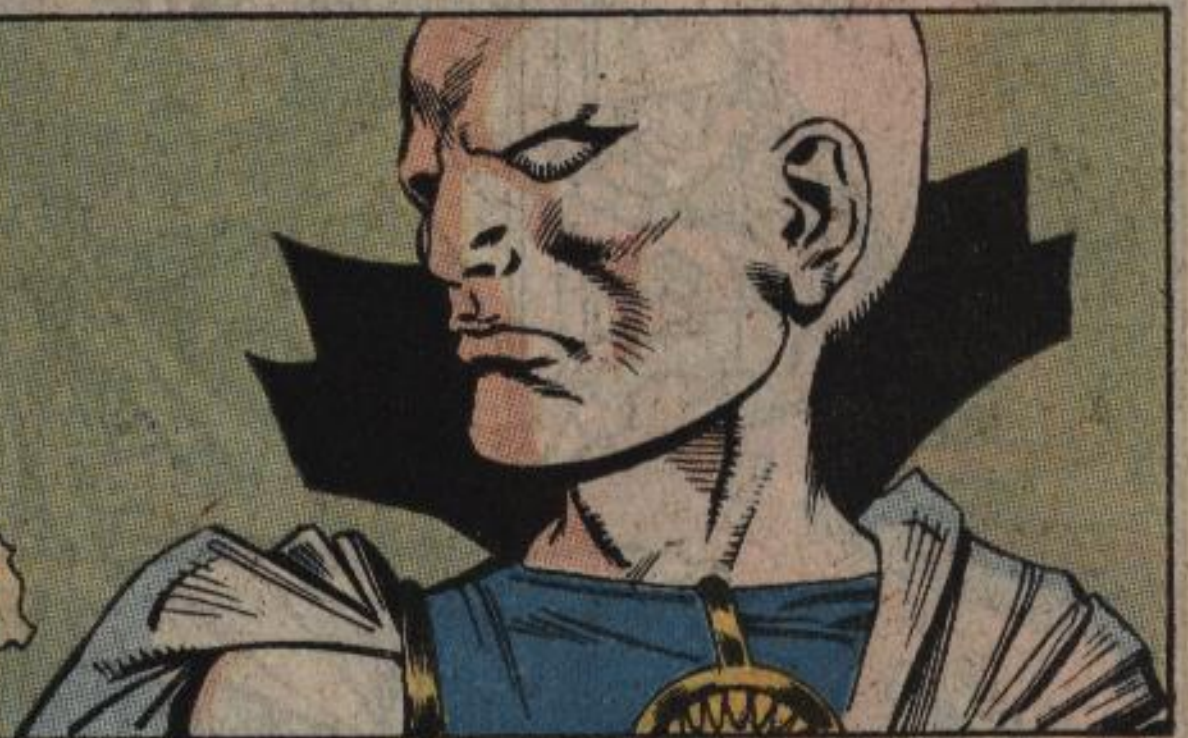
I WAS SO TAKEN ABACK BY THE **WATCHER**, I LOST TRACK OF THE **LASER** AND--

-- HE **DISAPPEARED** INTO THAT WEIRD PORTAL. I DON'T DETECT HIS **ENERGY** ANYMORE.

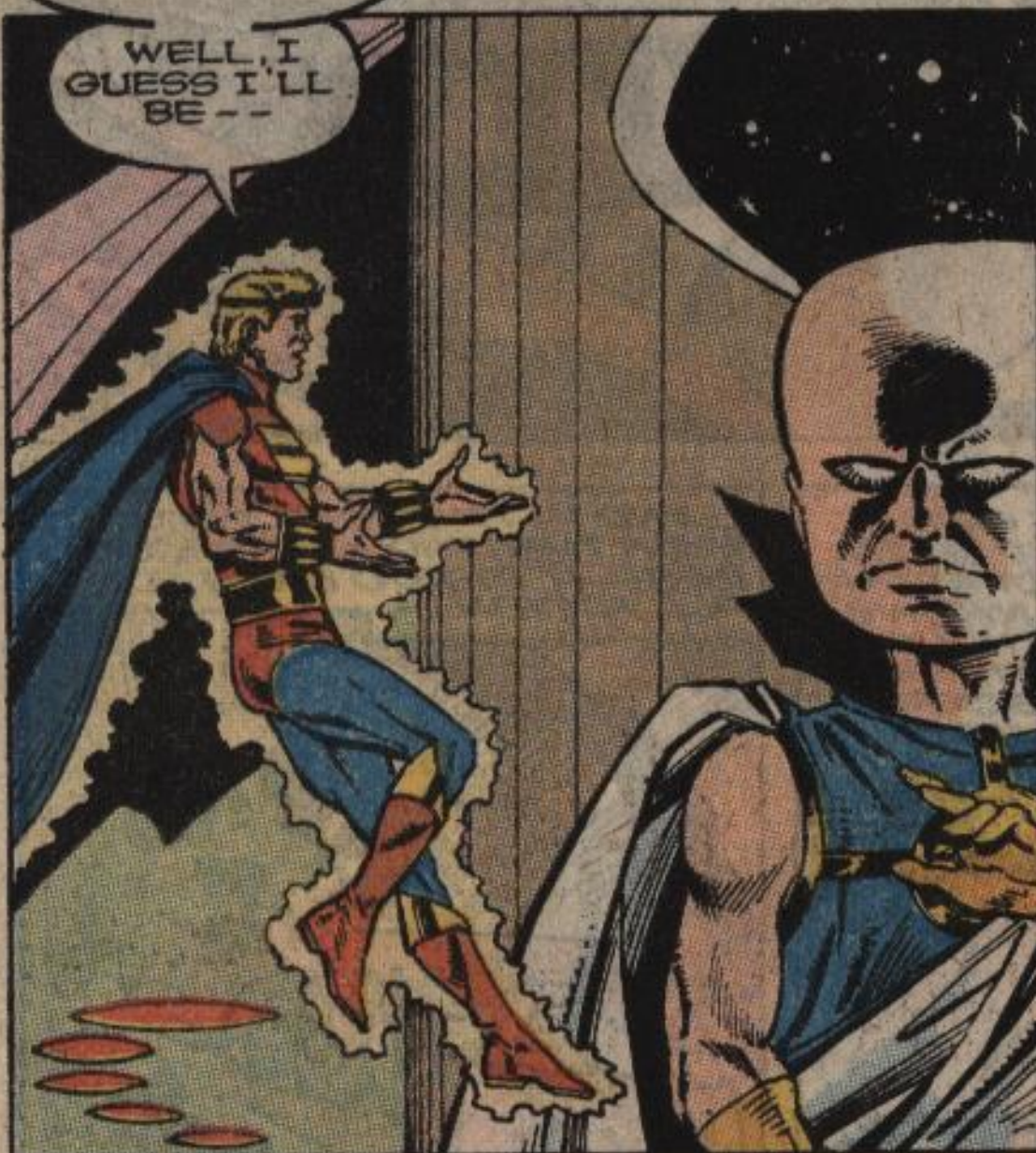


UH, **WATCHER**-- **SIR**, I'M SORRY ABOUT THE **INTRUSION**. I WAS JUST TRYING TO **APPREHEND** THAT FELLOW WHO STREAKED BY...

-- HE'S A **CONVICTED FELON** ON EARTH, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT **KNOW** THAT, BEING **OMNISCIENT** AND ALL... WHAT **HAPPENED** TO HIM ANYWAY? UH, YOU DON'T **HAVE** TO ANSWER IF YOU DON'T WANT.



WELL, I GUESS I'LL BE--



-- **GOING...?!?**



HEY! HOW'D I--? THE **WATCHER** MUST'VE GOT **TIRED** OF ME STAMMERING LIKE AN **IDIOT** AND **TELEPORTED** ME OUT OF HIS HOUSE.



HMH! GUESS HE DOESN'T CONSIDER EFFORTLESSLY ELIMINATING **HOUSEHOLD PESTS** LIKE ME A **VIOLATION** OF HIS OATH OF **NON-INVOLVEMENT**.

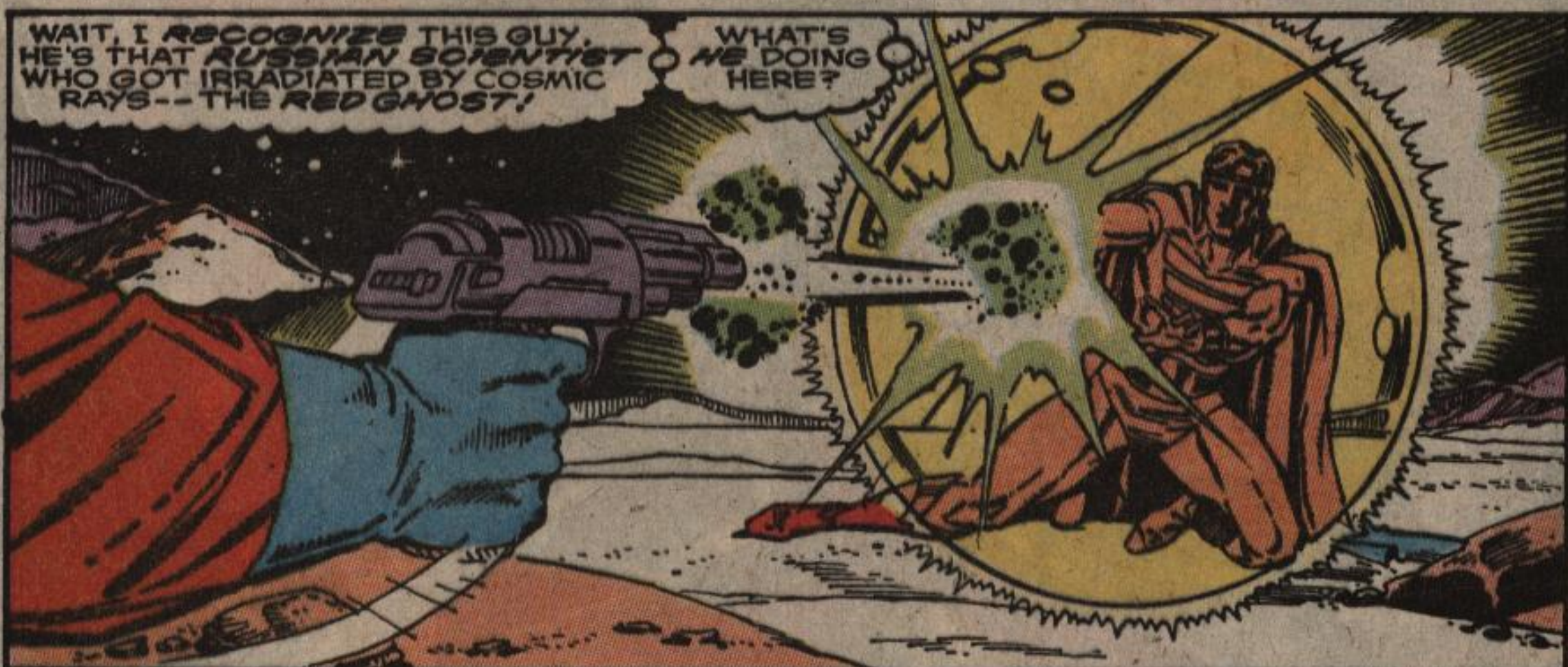


OH, WELL, GUESS,
I'LL JUST BE--
HEY!



(YOU UNMITIGATED IDIOT! YOU'VE
RUINED EVERYTHING! IF NOT FOR YOU
TWO, THE WATCHER WOULD NEVER HAVE
KNOWN ENOUGH TO EXPEL ME
FROM HIS STRONGHOLD!)

WHO--?



WAIT, I RECOGNIZE THIS GUY.
HE'S THAT RUSSIAN SCIENTIST
WHO GOT IRRADIATED BY COSMIC
RAYS-- THE RED GHOST!

WHAT'S
HE DOING
HERE?



CAN'T EXACTLY ASK HIM. WE'RE WAY
OUTSIDE THE BLUE AREA'S ARTIFICIAL
ATMOSPHERE AND GRAVITY. WITHOUT
AIR TO PROPAGATE SOUND
CONVERSATION'S PRETTY UNLIKELY.

UNLESS I ENCASE
HIM IN AN AIRTIGHT
BUBBLE AND PROJECT
SOME OF THE AIR IN
MY AURA INSIDE.

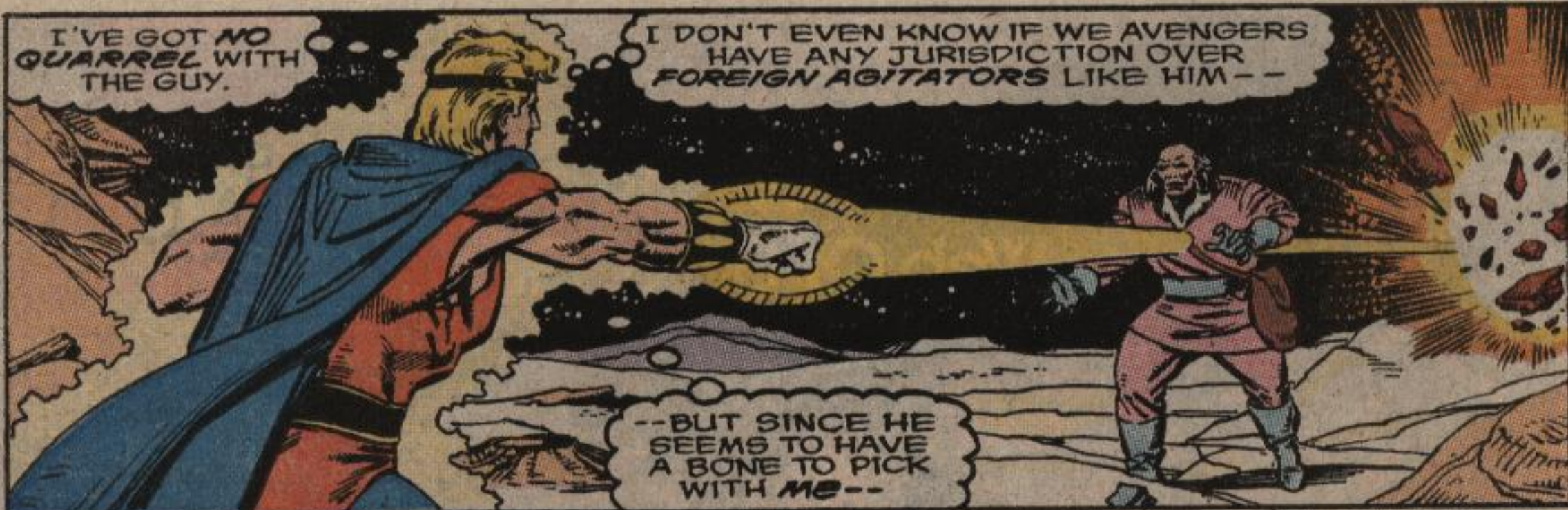
THE NAME'S
QUASAR, COMRADE.
I'M ONE OF THE
AVENGERS.
I DON'T TAKE
KINDLY TO BEING
FIRED UPON.



HA! YOU THINK
YOUR FORCE-
SPHERE CAN
HOLD ME?

WHOOPS.
HE PASSED
THROUGH MY
BUBBLE LIKE IT
WASN'T THERE!
GUESS HIS MENTAL
CONTROL OVER HIS
FANGIBILITY IS
EVERYTHING IT'S
CRACKED UP
TO BE.

WONDER WHY THE
LACK OF AIR ISN'T
BOTHERING HIM?



I'VE GOT NO QUARREL WITH THE GUY.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE AVENGERS HAVE ANY JURISDICTION OVER FOREIGN AGITATORS LIKE HIM --

--BUT SINCE HE SEEMS TO HAVE A BONE TO PICK WITH ME--



--THE LEAST I CAN DO IS RUN THROUGH THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM AND SEE IF ANYTHING KEEPS HIM FROM ADVANCING!

I'LL START WITH LOW-FREQUENCY RADIO WAVES--



--ADD MY SPECIAL BINDING FORCE TO GIVE MY ENERGY MANIFESTATION SOLIDITY--

--AND WORK MY WAY UP TO COSMIC RAYS.

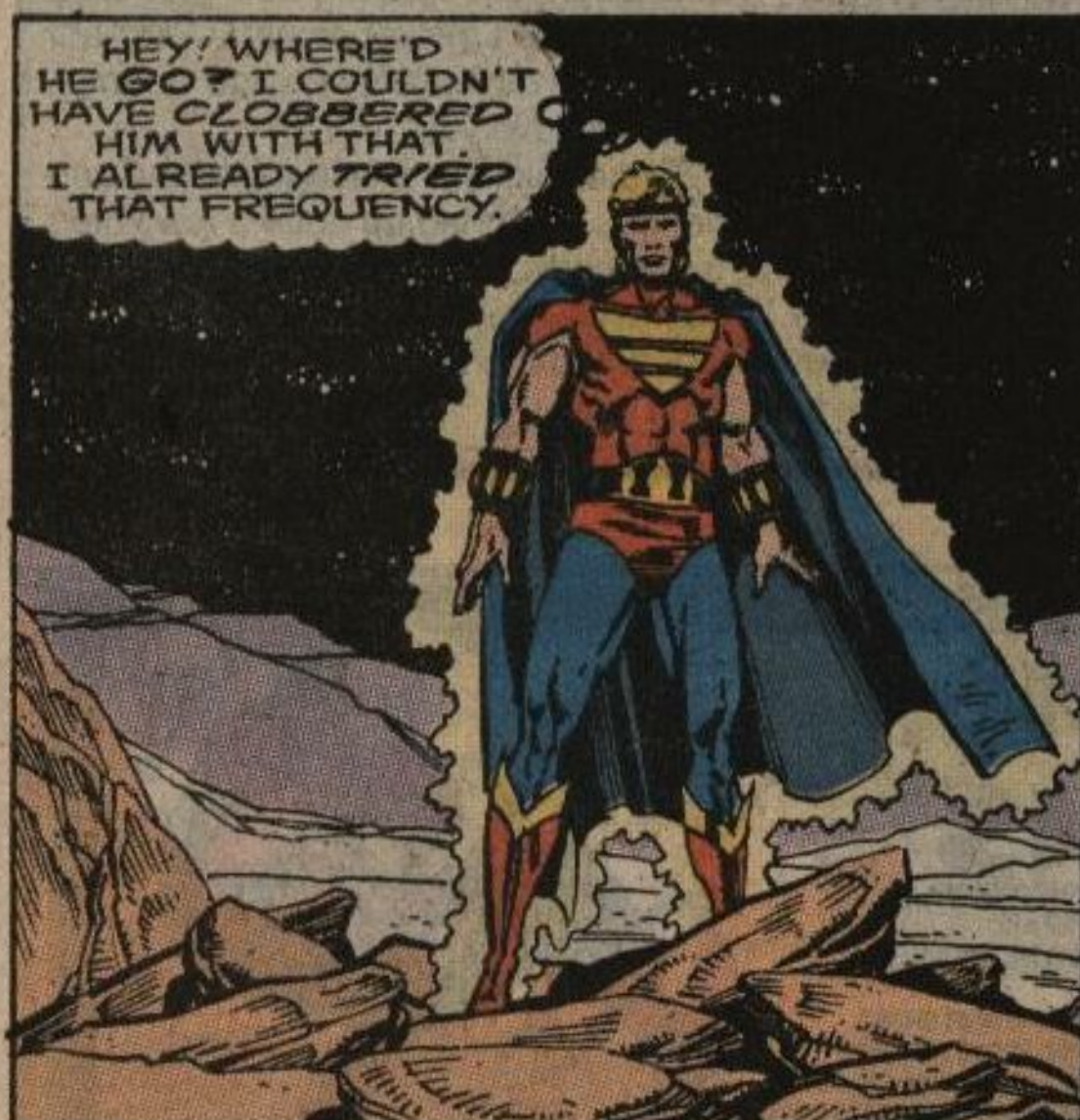


HMMM. NO GO. AND HERE I WAS HOPING THAT A HIGH DOSAGE OF THE SAME RADIATION THAT EMPOWERED HIM MIGHT PLAY HOB WITH HIS BODY'S IRRADIATED CELLS.

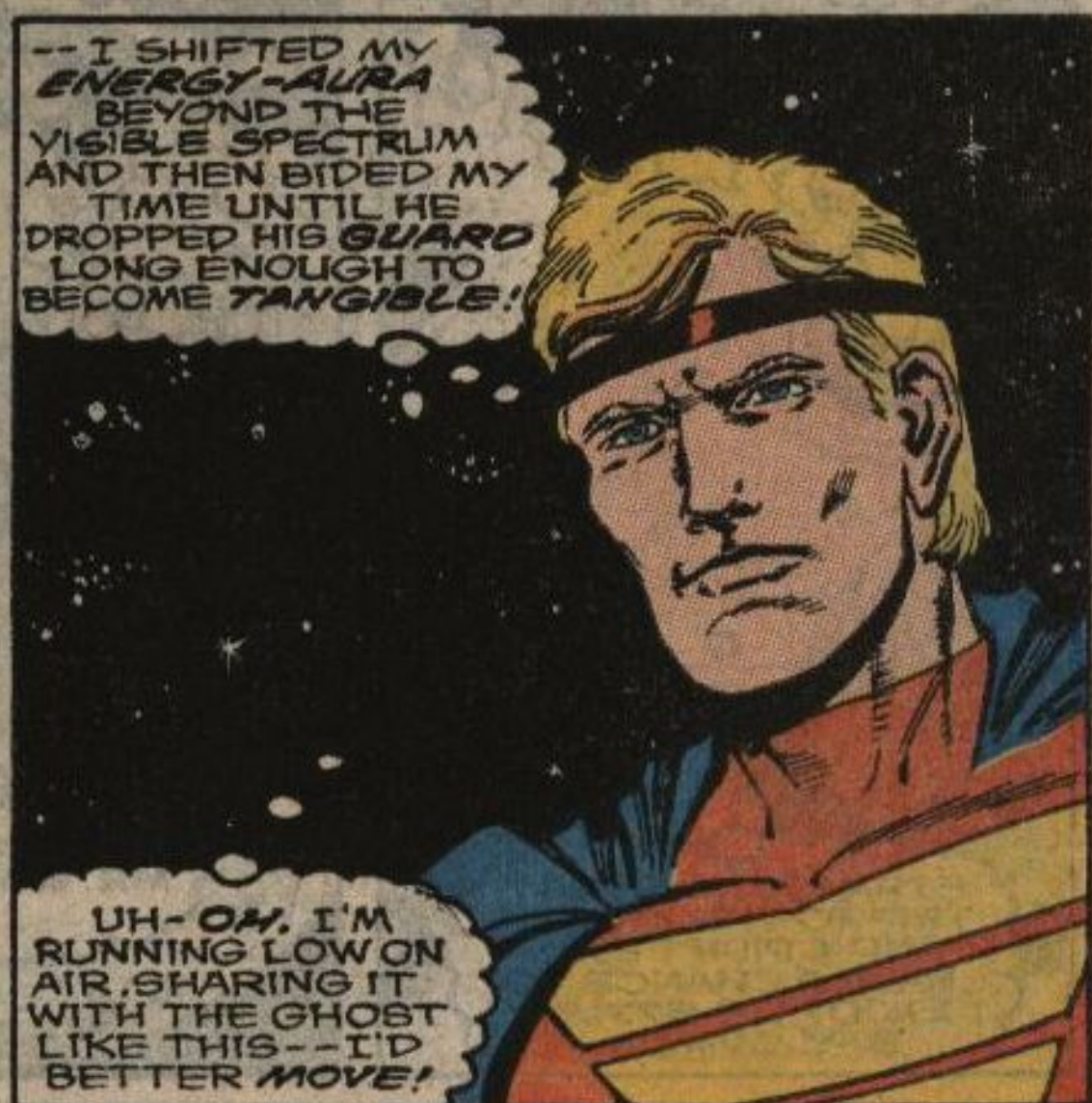
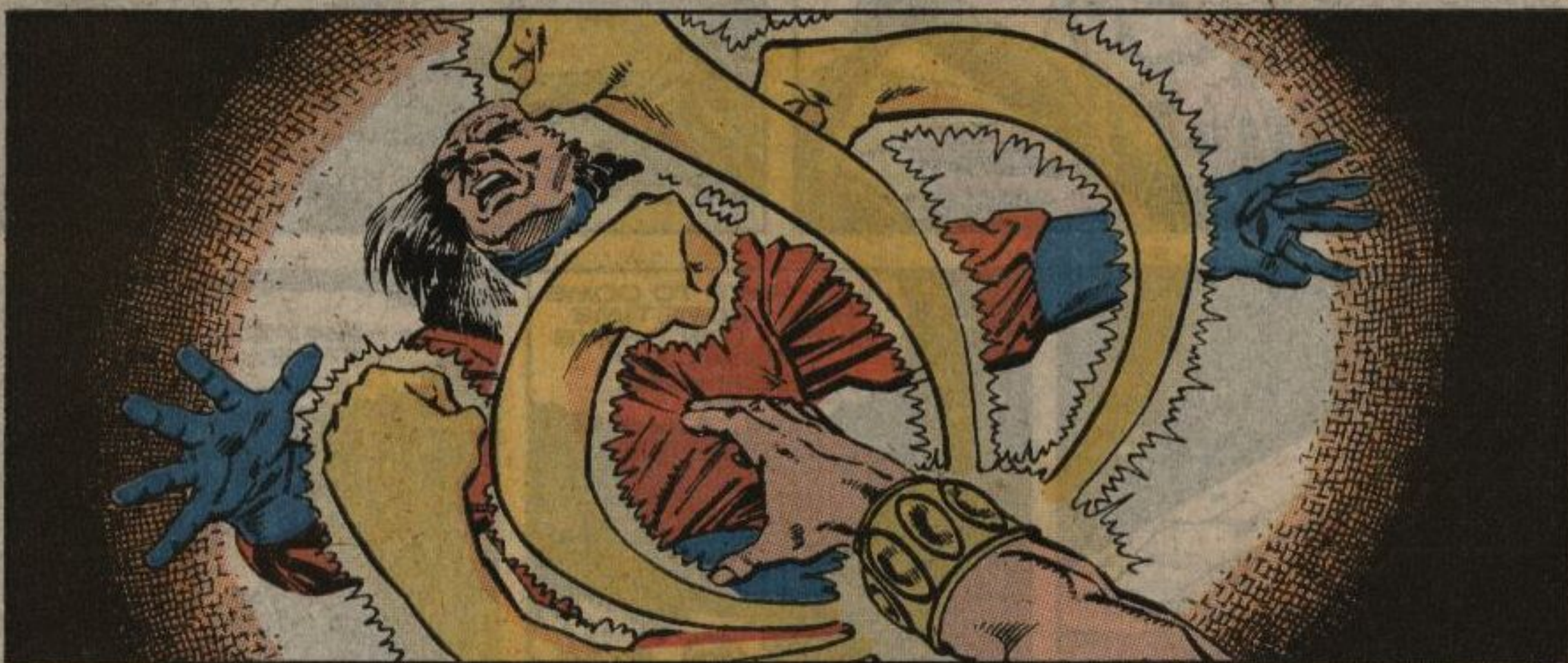
SORRY, COMRADE. IF I CAN'T TOUCH YOU, I SURE DON'T WANT YOU TOUCHING ME!

(THE YOUTH'S POWER SEEMS TO ORIGINATE IN THOSE WRIST-GEMS. SINCE HE HAS PREVENTED ME FROM CLAIMING THE WATCHER'S OBJECTS OF POWER--)

--IT IS ONLY FITTING I CONFISCATE HIS!!



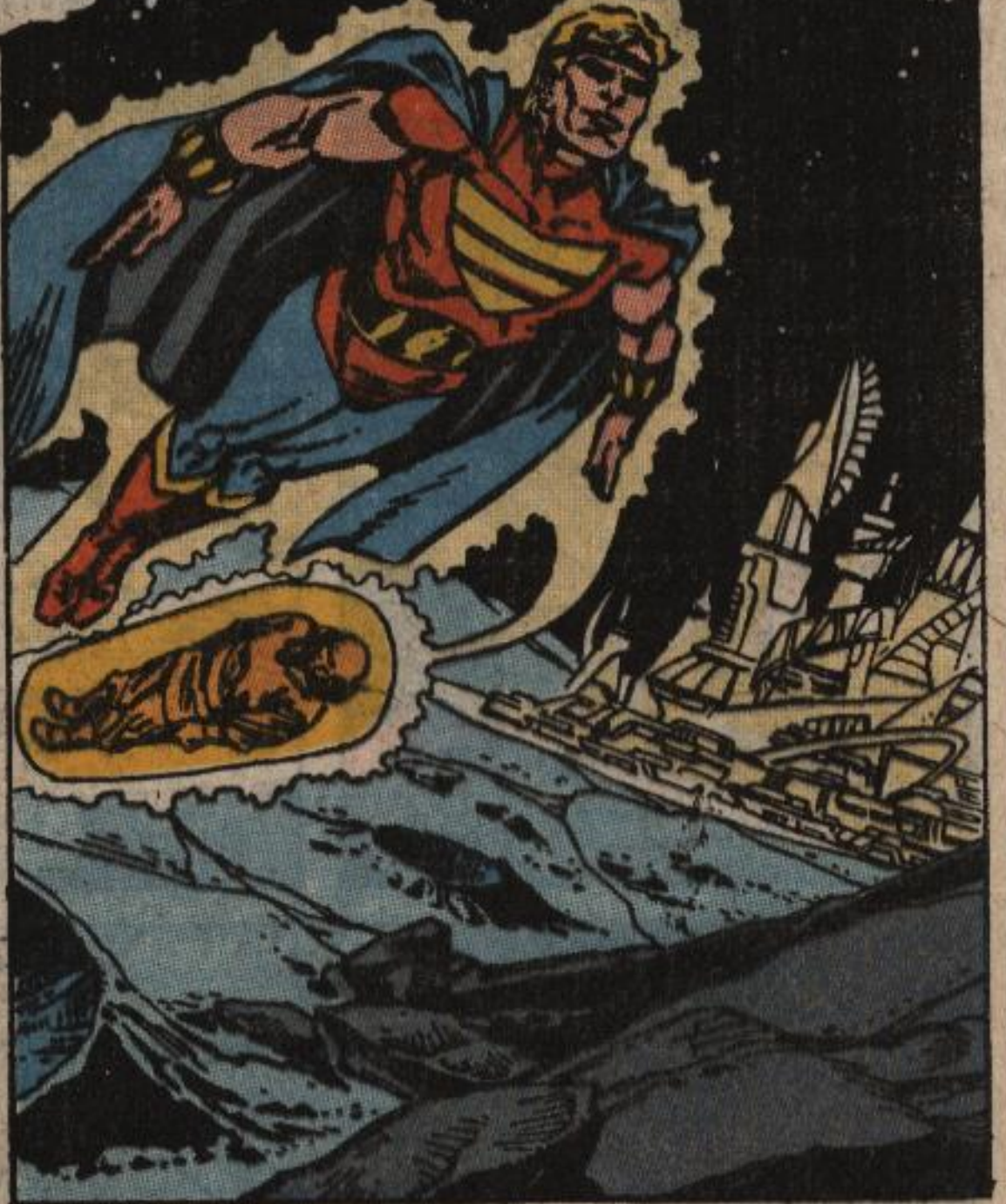




A QUICK DIP INTO THE **BLUE AREA** TO REFILL MY AURA WITH AIR AND I'LL BE ALL SET.

NOW, WITH ANY LUCK, I'LL BE ABLE TO GET THE GHOST BACK TO **EARTH** BEFORE HE WAKES UP AND SLIPS OUT OF MY ENERGY-CAPSULE.

THEN WHAT? I COULD HAVE EON CHECK IF THERE ARE ANY OUTSTANDING **WARRANTS** ON THIS GUY. IF NOT, GUESS I'LL JUST DROP HIM OFF SOMEWHERE IN **RUSSIA** AND HOPE HE'LL BEHAVE HIMSELF.



I'LL HAVE TO COME BACK SOMETIME WHEN I DON'T HAVE **PRESSING BUSINESS**.



STRANGE, MY FIRST TRIP TO THE **MOON** AND I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO ENJOY ITS **STARK SPLENDOR**.



AS FOR YOU, **MR. WATCHER**--

--WATCH THIS!



the end.

STELLARGRAMS

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Greetings:

Now that QUASAR #1 is out, it's analysis time, with some miscellaneous but possibly relevant comments.

First, let me say I'm glad Marvel is trying another "cosmic" title, since SILVER SURFER has been a complete disappointment to me.

Second, I like the emphasis I'm already seeing on Quasar's character. Showing how a character got his super powers is easy; showing how he became the person he is is more difficult but just as important. I can tell that Gilbert Vaughn will be an important influence on Wendell's actions, even when he's not actually there. Speaking from personal experience, I can tell you that sons do pick up traits from their fathers, even traits that annoy them. You've already shown that Wendell is, in his way, as much a perfectionist as his father. I wonder, do the resemblances run deeper? I get the feeling they might. I noticed that even when he thought he was about to explode, Wendell was observing and analyzing. On the other hand, Wendell doesn't seem to have any major hang-ups, which is also good: I regard neuroses and phobias as ham-handed substitutes for real characterization.

As for powers, I think that Quasar's are fine. I do hope you will quantify them, although we readers do not need to be given the figures. For instance, how strong a person can he restrain? I think quantification helps prevent power escalation. Power escalation is a problem in many comics, especially when writers then invent arbitrary "Achilles heels" for the hero, and mysteriously lots of villains show up who can exploit those weaknesses. (Superman and Green Lantern are the examples of this, but Marvel's pulled some shoddy tricks too—viz. some of the things Claremont has done with Professor X and the Juggernaut.) Another escalation problem, and one I find even more annoying, is giving the character a new power out of the blue. Really new powers should be added on only after careful consideration, I think. Although a Protector of the Universe should be powerful, I personally find it hard to identify with omnipotence, and I'd hate for you to have to keep bringing Elders of the Universe and suchlike to give Quasar a good fight.

That's all I can pull out of issue #1 directly, but

I also have a few general observations and suggestions. I think that one of the most important things to remember when writing space adventures is that space is big. Space is really, really big. People traveling through the galaxies are not often going to meet old acquaintances by chance. If only one star system in a million gives rise to a sentient race, that's 100,000 species in the Milky Way alone, and a lot of planets to get lost among. It also points out the silliness of things like the "Kree galaxy," "Skrull galaxy," and "Shi'ar galaxy"—another pet peeve of mine. It's not impossible for a very old race to have conquered an entire galaxy, especially if the galaxy is rather small, but it seems like overkill to me. Fortunately, there is an out: in addition to galaxies, there are also globular clusters and open clusters of stars. Reference to one structure could easily be mistranslated into another, especially by scientifically illiterate comic book "chroniclers."

While you're at it, I'll be watching for bungled use of real science and scientific terminology. Super powers and hyperdrivers don't follow established rules of science, of course, but plenty of other things do. If you obviously break Newton's laws of motion, or have sentient races evolving on worlds orbiting red giant stars, you'll hear about it. And please, no zipping in and out of black holes! This may seem harsh, but basically you'll get the same treatment as any other magazine SF writer. I think you're up to it.

When I started writing this letter, I had forgotten about your MARVEL AGE interview. I can see that some of the things I've commented on are things you set out to do. So I guess you're doing pretty well so far. Keep it up!

Dean Shornshak
10 Raft Island
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Our intent is to keep the scientific content of this book accurate, Dean—let us know if all the science texts and magazines we make Mark read are doing any good!

Dear Marvel,

I just finished QUASAR #1 and I must say that I'm impressed. After reading about him in MARVEL AGE, I expected the first issues to be

boring since they were set in the past. Boy, was I wrong. I knew that he would get the bands and survive, but the question was how? Having Vaughn fall at being a combat agent of SHIELD added to the suspense. It was easily the best comic I bought that month (even better than the other three AVENGERS titles). I think Quasar has the chance to be one of the most powerful Avengers. I can already see a sub-plot developing between Quasar and his dad. Doesn't he work for the Avengers now? The chart in AVENGERS #300 made it seem like he did.

Question: When Quasar files will he be turning completely yellow like he used to in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE? I like him better when he doesn't.

I'm expecting some great stories from Mr. Gruenwald. He's done some fine things on CAPTAIN AMERICA. Let's just hope Quasar's book lasts longer than his other Project: Pegasus buddies did (Thing had 36 issues, and Bill Foster as Black Goliath had only 5!). Good luck with this series. I hope it makes it.

Scott Shearer
Lexington, KY 40502

So do we, Scott! We're depicting our Cosmic Avenger in natural colors while flying unless he's really augmenting his energy-aura with extra "juice."

Dear QUASAR Crew,

My congratulations. QUASAR is the first comic I have ever read that did not explain what SHIELD stood for in a footnote. I've seen it so many times that well, let's just say it would make Col. Fury want to eat his lunch through a tube in his tummy. Anyway, thanks for some relief. Oh, and great first issue, too. Let's see more of Quasar's dad.

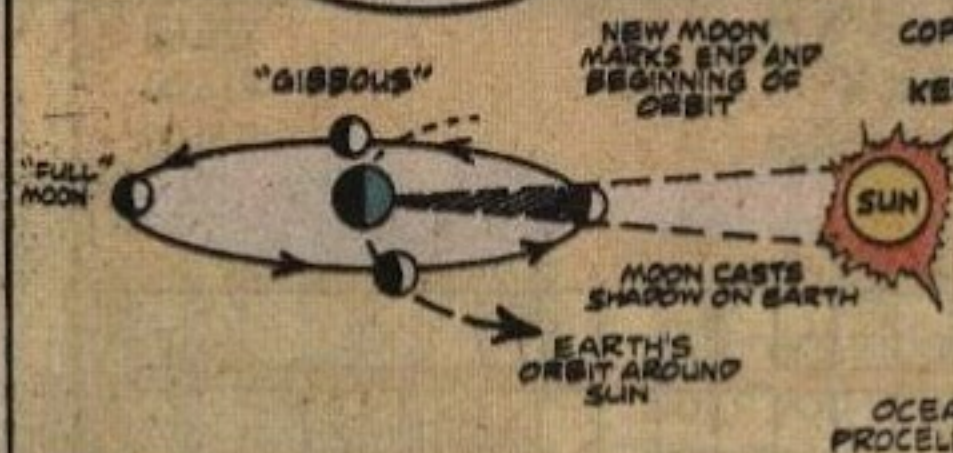
Ryan Humphries
520 Kimberly Ln.
Plymouth, MN 55447

Will do, Ryan.

—Supreme Headquarters International Espionage Law-enforcement Division (sorry).

"HOW SWEET THE MOONLIGHT" -- SHAKESPEARE

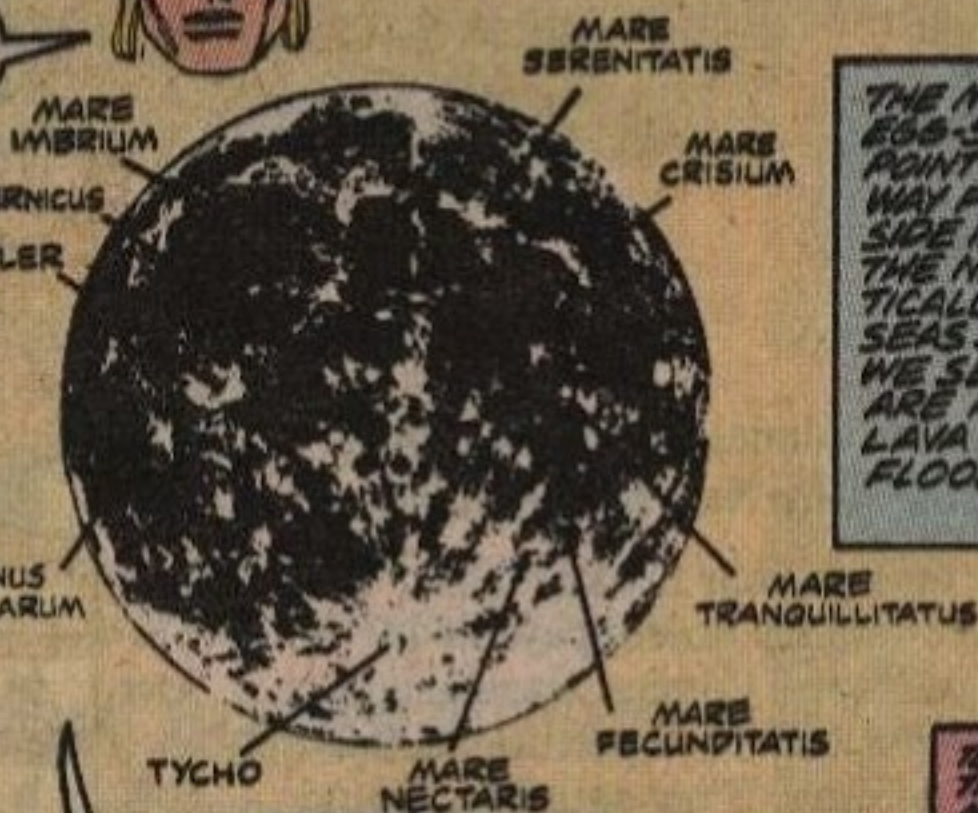
EARTH THE MOON IS AIRLESS, WATERLESS AND GEOLOGICALLY DEAD. IT IS ILLUMINATED BY THE SUN WHICH CASTS SHADOWS ON IT AND WE SEE THEM AS PHASES OF THE MOON.



OUR NEAREST NEIGHBOR IS AN AVERAGE OF 238,840 MILES AWAY FROM US (MEASURED FROM THE CENTERS OF THE TWO PLANETS). HAS 1/80 THE MASS OF THE EARTH AND HAS A DIAMETER OF 2,158 MILES. IT FITS ALMOST EXACTLY OVER THE SUN, WHEN SEEN FROM EARTH, AND WHEN IT DOES, WE SEE SOLAR ECLIPSES-- WHEN EARTH'S SHADOW IS CAST ON THE MOON WE SEE LUNAR ECLIPSES.



THE MOON TAKES THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME TO REVOLVE ON ITS AXIS (ITS 'DAY'), AS IT TAKES TO ORBIT THE EARTH. THIS MEANS THAT WE SEE THE SAME SIDE OF THE MOON ALL THE TIME.



THE MOON IS SLIGHTLY EGG-SHAPED, WITH THE POINTY END POINTED AWAY FROM US. THE FAR SIDE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE NEAR; IT HAS PRACTICALLY NO MARIA, OR SEAS. THE DARK MARIA WE SEE FROM EARTH ARE REALLY ANCIENT LAVA FLOWS WHICH FLOODED EVEN OLDER LOWLANDS.

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, THE MOON HAS NO EFFECT ON THE CRIME RATE HERE ON EARTH, CRIME NEEDS NO SUCH EXCUSE.

TECH NOTE: THE EARTH AND MOON IN THE UPPER LEFT AND RIGHT CORNERS ARE DRAWN TO THEIR CORRECT SIZE AND DISTANCE.